

Direct Import and California Noncertified Vehicles

Issue Date: June 19, 2014

New Information

This memo provides additional procedures for registering and titling direct import and California noncertified vehicles (CNCVs), formerly known as 49-state vehicles.

Procedures for Direct Import Vehicles

In conjunction with current direct import vehicle procedures in the *Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual*, Chapter 12, direct import vehicle registration applications are submitted to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for processing and must include:

- Evidence or documentation to prove that the vehicle was imported legally and cleared U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP forms 7501, 3461, 6059, 3299, or 3311, stamped or endorsed by CBP are acceptable. This does not apply to U.S. territories.
- Evidence that the vehicle was modified to meet Department of Transportation (DOT) Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS). This may be FMVSS labels affixed to the vehicle or a letter from the manufacturer certifying the vehicle meets FMVSS requirements.
- Evidence that the vehicle was modified to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards and requirements. This may be a label affixed to the vehicle or letter from the manufacturer stating the vehicle meets U.S. EPA requirements.

NOTE: Manufacturers may certify to FMVSS and EPA requirements on the same letter.

- If the vehicle is less than two years old, a certificate of conformance from a California Air Resources Board (ARB) authorized laboratory.

If the application is for registration of a 1966 year model or newer auto or commercial vehicle or a 1978 year model or newer motorcycle that does not comply with:

- U.S. emission requirements, refer the customer to ARB at 1-800-242-4450 or by e-mail at helpline@www.arb.ca.gov.
- FMVSS, refer the customer to the manufacturer to obtain a letter stating the vehicle meets FMVSS.

Exemptions for Direct Import and CNCVs

When a used direct import or CNCV is more than two years old upon date of entry, but no older than a 1975 year model, and not equipped to meet federal or California emission standards for registration in California, the applicant must certify that they qualify for one of the exemptions listed on the Statement of Facts New, Nonresident, or Imported Vehicle (REG 256F) form to register the vehicle in California.

An additional exemption has been added to the REG 256F, which may be claimed when a motorcycle's engine displacement is less than 50 cubic centimeters.

Procedures for CNCVs

When a vehicle cannot be registered because it is a CNCV, **do not** process the application: submit it to DMV for handling.

Background

A CNCV is manufactured to be first sold in all states except California meeting only federal emission standards. These vehicles cannot be registered to a California resident who purchased the vehicle with less than 7,500 miles, unless the owner qualifies for an exemption.

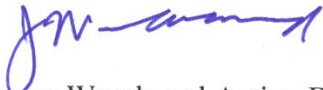
These procedures were developed for CNCV and direct import vehicle consistency. The *Vehicle Industry Registration Procedures Manual* will be revised and a new section on CNCV will be added to reflect the new information.

Distribution

Notification that this memo is available online, at **www.dmv.ca.gov** under Publications was made via California DMV's Automated E-mail Alert System in June 2014.

Contact

Call the DMV Customer Communications Section, at (916) 657-6560 for further clarification of this memo. Upon request, this document can be produced in Braille or large print.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JW Woodward', is positioned above the printed name of the signatory.

James Woodward Acting Deputy Director
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